

History of Smart Rivers

Smart Rivers 21 is an international coalition intent on realizing “**Strategic Maritime Asset Research and Transformation for 21ST Century River Systems**”. It is an agreement signed in 2004 between the European Federation of Inland Ports (EFIP), via donau (operators of the Austrian Waterways), TINA Vienna (an intermodal corridor planning entity), the Port of Pittsburgh Commission and ORBITTS (Ohio River Basin International Trade and Transportation). It is an international coalition to help bring inland river transportation into the global logistics system of the 21st century.

Major themes are to:

1. Develop corridor-like institutions;
2. Improve container transportation on the inland waterways;
3. Improve lock operation and traffic management on inland waterways;
4. Integrate inland waterway transportation in the international intermodal transportation chain;
5. Develop strategies for common approaches toward improving security;
6. Improve the specific role of inland ports in their quality of intermodal nodes to integrate rail, road, and waterway traffic;
7. Have annual meetings; and
8. Define the requirements and standards of "smartriver" infrastructure and fairway conditions, for locks and traffic management, to support efficient transport services and port operations on inland waterways.

Conferences have been held in Pittsburgh in 2005 and Brussels in 2006. The Pittsburgh Conference was held in tandem with an AAPA conference on Shallow Draft Ports. Major papers presented at the 2005 conference can be found at <http://www.port.pittsburgh.pa.us./home/index.asp?page=95>.

Information on Smart Rivers 2006 can be found at http://www.inlandports.be/public_smartriver.php